

INFORMA~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Colombia

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SUBJECT Continued Dissension between the PCC and the PCO

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1. Despite opposition within the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) to the expulsion of Rafael Atehortua Lopez [REDACTED] for promoting unity between the two Communist factions in Colombia, the announcement of his expulsion was published in the PCC newspaper, Vanguardia del Pueblo. Atehortua has joined forces with Augusto Duran Ospino, Secretary General of the Communist Workers' Party (PCO), although he had previously denied any intention of doing so.
2. At a recent meeting of the PCC Executive Committee, the recent strike against the Sevilla Fruit Company and the active part played in it by the PCO, were discussed. The PCC is very concerned over the activities and influence of the PCO and Ismael Escamilla, the President of FEDENAL ([REDACTED]) in the labor movement near the coastal area. The PCC's efforts to gain sympathy and support have been completely overshadowed there. Jaime Barrios, PCC Secretary of Organization, stated that the growing PCO influence could not be ignored, especially since it was having a disastrous effect on the entire syndical movement. He added that the Vanguardia attacks against a rival Communist group were obstructing the true work of the Party, which consists in defense of the proletariat and united opposition to imperialism.

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